

EMS Education Committee Meeting – August 6, 2007

Members Present: Ed O'Farrell, Steve Garrison, Ron Parsons, Hugh Garner, Tina Butt, John Zartman, Rita Herrington, and Jim Christopher.

Staff: Sam Steinhilber, Tony Pagano, and Bill Null

Guests: David Ebert, Lifeline; Jeff Benson, Delaware Co., EMS; William Gossett, Ball Memorial Hosp.; Myron Mackey, Knox Co. EMS/EMS Commission member, John Merson, Boone Co. EMS; Eric Frantz, Warren Co. EMS/St. Vincent Williamsport; George Schulp, Superior Amb.; John Chalfin, IVY Tech – Kokomo; Debra Taylor, St. Vincent EMS, Indpls; Kevin Henderson, Deaconess Hospital; Kraig Kinney, Operation Life/Putnam Co.; Jim Howard, Methodist Hosp./Hancock Co.; Tony Hartman, Elkhart Gen'l Hosp.; Mark A. Hullett, Carmel Fire; Terri Hamilton, Community Hospital/Marion Co./EMS Commission member; and Deanna Hawkins, EMT Inc.

Chairman Ed O'Farrell introduced himself and thanked everyone for being in attendance. He called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Old Business

Tony explained that the Education Committee did not present anything to the Commission for action and the Education Committee was not given any specific guidance or assignments. Tony also explained the possible updates or changes that may appear in the upcoming months. One of those items will be the age at which someone can take the First Responder course. The new minimum age will be 14 years old. A couple of other items would address concerns about the Primary Instructor Course. Changes have been made to eliminate the pre-course test. This will make it easier to facilitate the course. All of these changes will take effect in October of this year when the rules are signed.

Sam Steinhilber presented information on the practical exam via a visual review of the draft version of the new EMT-B Practical Exam. Several clarifications and changes were made to the draft version to make it clearer. First Responder and Basic Advance were also reviewed by the group. The revised copies of the practical will be presented at the next Commission meeting at the Emergency Response Conference in September. Upon the Commission's approval, the practical exams will be released.

John Zartman made a motion to pass the practical exams on to the Commission. Motion carried.

After a short break, the next item of business was the Future of Indiana EMS Education. Tony began the discussion about the status of education in the state of Indiana. The issue started at the last committee meeting carries on with no specific solution in sight. The EMT-B exam in 2004 was about 91-92% pass rate on the EMT-B exam. Now the current pass rate is about 83% in Indiana with the prior years averaged into the total. This is a first time pass rate. We've added items to the curriculum without adding hours to the curriculum which may be part of the problem. When looking at the National Registry, the EMT-B first time pass rate is about 50% for Indiana EMT students.

A lot of discussion was generated among the folks attending. Rita Herrington suggested trying to get in touch with graduate students that might be interested in the research aspect of this project. Another question was some type of evaluation prior to allowing the potential student to enter a class. This evaluation would establish suitability for participation.

Lindi Holt was appointed Chairperson of a sub-committee to address the problems of current education trends in EMS education. Also on the committee are John Zartman and Terri Hamilton of Community Hospital, Indianapolis; Steve Garrison of St. Vincent's Indianapolis; John Chalfin of IVY Tech, Kokomo; and Bill Null, DHS, State of Indiana.

The next item of business was the 12-Lead EKG and the Acute Coronary Syndromes Lesson Plan. Copies were passed out to those in attendance. John Zartman discussed the overall program. Objectives 20-37 of the objective document explained how to do it. The Commission instructed the Education Committee to develop a course for Intermediates on the use of a 12-Lead EKG. This is an attempt to get that accomplished. Participants were encouraged to contact Tony Pagano with comments. These will be brought back to the October Education Committee meeting.

John Zartman wanted the committee polled to see if Monday continues to be a good day for the Education committee meeting. Several committee members are having problems making a Monday meeting. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 15, 2007. This meeting would move to Thursday, the 18th of October pending availability of rooms at Wayne Township. An email will be sent to all interested parties to confirm the meeting date.

New Business

The 2207 Emergency Response Conference is coming! Register now! Don't be left out. This year the conference is being co-sponsored by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association, and the Indiana Firefighters Association on September 13-16, 2007 at the Marriott East Motel. Go to <http://www.in.gov/dhs/files/07online.pdf> to view the conference information and on-line registration.

Pre-conference is on Thursday with the EMS Commission meeting at 4:00 p.m..

Ambulance competition is scheduled for September 5 and 6 at Wayne Township.

Final comments and thanks to all those who took the time to attend.

When the new rules come out in October we will need a new in-service booklet for paramedics and intermediates. There is a need to have another sub-committee to address this issue. Contact Tony Pagano if interested in serving on this committee.

Meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.